

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:  
~~— using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote client to a host;~~  
receiving at a host a trigger sequence sent by a remote client to the host via a transport mechanism, the trigger sequence comprising a series of attempts to connect to the host via a prescribed sequence of two or more trigger ports;  
authenticating the remote client based at least in part on receipt of the trigger sequence;  
and  
opening the covert service channel to allow ~~a connection with the remote host~~ the authenticated remote client to communicate with the host via the covert service channel.
2. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a protocol to format the transport mechanism.
3. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a backscatter effect as the trigger.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes opening a port other than a trigger port.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a reply to the remote client.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes spawning a service if the remote client is authenticated based at least in part on the trigger sequence ~~is authenticated~~.
7. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes establishing a connection between the remote client and a service on the host.
8. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes receiving a request from the remote client.
9. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a response by an operating system on the host to the remote client.
10. (Previously Presented) A method ~~f~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending an address from the host to the remote client for establishing the connection.
11. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:  
a communication interface configured to receive a trigger sequence sent by a remote client via a transport mechanism, the trigger sequence comprising a series of attempts to connect to the system via a prescribed sequence of two or more trigger ports ~~transport mechanism for sending a trigger from a remote client to a host~~; and  
a processor coupled to the communication interface and configured to authenticate the remote client based at least in part on the received trigger sequence and open ~~stealth application on the host for receiving the trigger from the remote client, authenticating the trigger on the target host, and opening the covert service channel on the host to allow a connection with the~~ authenticated remote client to communicate with the system via the covert service channel.
12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:
  - sending a pre-defined trigger sequence to a ~~port on a~~ remote host, ~~the trigger sequence comprising a series of attempts to connect to the remote host via a prescribed sequence of two or more trigger ports~~;
  - waiting for a pre-defined time period;
  - sending a connection request to ~~[[the]]~~ a covert service channel port on the remote host after the pre-defined time period has expired; and
  - establishing a connection over the covert service channel with the remote host.
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Cancelled)